The gap between the production and demand is met through imports. The entire requirement of Potash(K) is imported as the country does not have any known and commercially viable reserves of Potash.

(e) As part of the plan to increase the production of fertilizers during the Eighth Five Year Plan and also to reduce the gap between the demand and indigenous production of fertilizers two ammonia-urea plants; one each at Babrala (Uttar Pradesh) and Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh); are currently under implementation in the private sector. Besides, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and India Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) have taken up projects for doubling of the capacity of their gas based plants at Vijaipur (Madhya Pradesh) and Aonla (Uttar Pradesh), respectively. Revamping of plants of Madras Fertilizers Limited will also increase its fertilizer production capacity. Gas availability has also been indicated in Krishna-Godavari Basin (Andhra Pradesh) for a medium size ammonia-urea plant.

Privatisation of public sector fertilizer units

1362. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer producing units in the public sector are proposed to be privatised;

(b) if so, what is the actual plan for their privatisation;

(c) whether there is any opposition to this privatisation plan; and

(d) by which date these units will be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Government to privatise any of the public sector fertilizer producing units.

Proposal to set up drug unit in Orissa

1363. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a basic drug unit in Orissa;

(b) if so, the site selected for the location of such drug unit; and

(c) the steps taken by IPCL or other concerning agency to set up that unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Variation in the rates of Urea and Phosphate

1364. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rates of urea and phosphate in the indigenous market and in the International market;